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On: MARCH EGG PRODUCTION

UP 8 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

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Austin . . . March egg production in Texas totaled 436 million eggs, up 8 percent from March 2005, and up 16 percent from February 2006, according to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office.

The number of layers during March averaged 19.2 million, up 8 percent from last year and up 2 percent from February 2006. Egg production per 100 layers averaged 2,265 eggs, up 1 percent from last year and up 13 percent from last month.

Texas hatchery production of broiler-type chicks totaled 56.9 million, up slightly from last year.

United States egg production totaled 7.84 billion eggs during March 2006, up 1 percent from a year ago. Production included 6.73 billion table eggs, 1.04 billion broiler-type hatching eggs and 69 million egg-type hatching eggs.

Nationally, the total number of layers averaged 350 million during March 2006, up 1 percent from a year ago. Production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up slightly from March 2005.

The U.S. monthly hatch of egg-type chicks totaled 38.9 million, down 7 percent from March 2005. The hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 817 million, was up slightly from March of last year.

The leading U.S. breeders placed 7.01 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2006, down 1 percent from March 2005.